

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Terence D. Neavin, Andrew J. Ouderkirk, Group Art Unit: —

Robert M. Biegler, Yaoqi J. Liu

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: herewith

Examiner: —

For: **APPARATUS FOR MAKING MULTILAYER OPTICAL FILMS**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10 I certify that this application is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Mar. 16, 2001

Date

Signature

Express Mail Mailing Label No.

EL597084101US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendment in the cited application prior to substantive examination.

Amendment

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown in Attachment A, where matter to be deleted is surrounded by italicized brackets ("*//*") and matter to be inserted is underlined (except that underlined section headings should be considered as ordinary text not to be inserted), as provided in Rule 121(b). A clean copy of the specification with these amendments made is provided in Attachment B also in conformance with Rules 121(b) and 125. Please replace the specification in the present application with the substitute specification of Attachment B.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims also as shown in Attachment A, where newly added claims 16-18 are identified by the designation "(new)" immediately following the claim number, in conformity with Rule 121(c). A clean copy of the claims with these amendments made is provided together with the substitute specification in Attachment B, pursuant to Rule 121(c).

In the Drawings:

Please amend FIG. 3 as shown in the red-lined version of that figure provided in Attachment A. A clean version of FIG. 3 as amended is provided in the substitute specification of Attachment B.

Please re-enter FIG. 4 and amend it as shown in the red-lined version of that figure provided in Attachment A. A clean version of this FIG. 4 as amended is provided in the substitute specification of Attachment B.

Remarks

The present application is being filed as a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/229,724, filed Jan. 13, 1999, pending, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/006,288, filed Jan. 13, 1998, now abandoned.

The present application differs from the currently pending '724 application in the Attorney Docket number on the first page, in the title (appearing on the first page and on the last page that contains the abstract), in the Cross-Reference to Related Application section on the first page immediately following the title, and in the number of claims presented (not all claims of the currently pending '724 application have been included). No new matter has been added.

The various amendments to the specification are made chiefly for one or more of the following purposes: (a) to update U.S. application information; (b) for internal consistency; and (c) to correct typographical errors. Additionally, text has been added to refer to FIG. 4 in the Brief Description of the Drawings section and the Detailed Description portion immediately following the description of FIG. 3. The substitute

specification (with amended drawings and the claims as amended) is provided in Attachment B for the Examiner's convenience. No new matter has been added.

FIG. 3 has been amended for consistency with the specification which indicates conduits 42 and 44 are interleaved. (See e.g. p. 25, lines 5-6, of the substitute specification.) No new matter has been added.

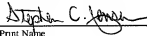
FIG. 4 is being re-introduced to the specification after having been filed with the '288 grandparent application and incorporated by reference into the '724 parent application. The figure is believed to be helpful to the reader's understanding of the subject matter. Amendments to this figure are for internal consistency and to eliminate verbiage from the figure. No new matter has been added.

Additional claims 16-18 are being added herein to further encompass the applicants' inventive contributions. Support can be found generally at p. 24, line 29, to p. 25, line 2, of the substitute specification.

Conclusion

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to substantive examination is respectfully requested. A fee calculation sheet accompanies this amendment. No additional fee is believed to be due by submission of this paper. If this belief is in error, please charge any required fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration Number 35,207	Telephone Number 651-736-3369	By 	Signature
Date March 16, 2001		Print Name Stephen C. Jensen	

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
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St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427
Facsimile: (651) 736-3833

ATTACHMENT A

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS, AND DRAWINGS

**(Text to be deleted surrounded by italicized brackets;
text to be added underlined (except for section headings))**

(Drawing amendments shown in red)

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Duplicate

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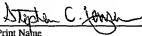
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